

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 12-17, 19, 21-23, 25-27, and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,871,328 ("Fung").

Claims 9-11, 18, 20, 24, 32, and 33 are objected to.

Claims 4 and 28 are allowed.

Claims 9, 18, 20, 25-27, and 29 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 10-12, 19, 24, and 30-32 have been amended.

Support for the amended claims, 1, 12, 19, 24, and 30-32, and for all pending claims is found on pages 4-29 of the specification, Figures 1-17 of the drawings, and claims 1-33 as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 12-17, 19, 21-23, 25-27, and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Fung.

Claims 9-11, 18, 20, 24, 32, and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 18.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 20.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 19.

Claim 32 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 25.

Applicants submit that claims 1, 12, 19, 24, and 32 are now allowable over Fung.

Given that claims 2, 3, and 5-8, and 10-11, depend from claim 1, claims 13-17 depend from claim 12, claims 21-23 depend from claim 19, claims 30-31 depend from

claim 28, and claim 33 depend from claim 32, it is likewise submitted that claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-17, 21-23, 30-31, and 33 are also patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Fung.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, it is respectfully submitted that the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8, 10-17, 19, 21-24, 28, and 30-33, as amended, should be found to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (217-377-2500) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1624.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 5th day of September

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Signature